

that it would be an act of
vandalism to have it in any way
changed and that if scoured
and restored it should be restored
in full. The people of the
neighbourhood have been
accustomed to it from time
immemorial and I believe
as a rule would dislike having
any change made in it.

Still it is one of those things
which some prudish people
might take up and I should
not like to restore it without being
fortified by your opinion as its
principal neighbour, and I

L132

Rushmore,
Salisbury.

Oct: 5. 1883

Dear Lord Digby,

I have received
several applications from people
to have the Giant at Cerne
scoured and restored, and the
Dorset Chronicle has now a
letter on the subject. It seems
to me advisable to write to
you before doing anything as it
is a matter which concerns
you and the neighbours as

well as having a concern of its
own to be regarded. As I am
the Government Inspector of
Ancient Monuments and it is
on my property I may be said
to have a double concern in it
and of course I should not wish
to do anything with it that I
should not recommend another
person to do if it was theirs.

There can be no doubt I think
of its great antiquity and
whatever view may be taken of
its origin there is every reason
to suppose that its particular

proportions are symbolical. It is
a figure of Hercules such as are
to be found in all the Museums
of Europe and which no one
ever proposes to disfigure or
mutilate. It is only its enormous
size and conspicuous position
which draw attention to the
peculiarities which are
characteristic of all the
Monuments of the Age to which
it belongs and which no doubt
constitute its chief interest
and the best evidence of its
antiquity. My own opinion is

Rushmore,
Salisbury.

appears to me better to have
it done at once ~~quickly~~ quietly
rather than have it discussed
in the papers. Would you
kindly tell me what is the
feeling of the neighbours on
the subject and whether it
can be scoured without giving
offence

Yours very truly

A. Pitt Rivers